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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/672,154	09/27/2000	Masahiko Sato	450100-02733	6619

20999                      7590                      03/01/2004

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EXAMINER

RAMAN, USHA

ART UNIT                      PAPER NUMBER

2611

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/672,154	Applicant(s) SATO, MASAHIKO	
	Examiner Usha Raman	Art Unit 2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02-23-04.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 2000 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some \*    c)  None of:
  - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Claim Objections***

1. In regards to claim 1, "the stored broadcast program information" in lines 8-9 is ambiguous because it is not clearly pointed out whether "the stored broadcast program information" refers to the broadcast program information that is stored in the data server or the user server.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Dunn (US Pat. 5,945,987).

In regards to claim 1, Dunn has a data server for storing the entire program information in a database and a function for searching the program information. Note figure 1 and column 5, line 54 – column 6, line 7. The user terminal (a set top box) requests a selection based on some selected criteria (content keyword) and in response, a list of programs matching the criteria is sent to the user terminal and downloaded in them. Since the user terminal

receives the program list from the data server, the user server has the same information as the broadcast program information stored in the data server. Note column 8, lines 16-20. Along with a program list, program IDs and monikers are sent to the user from which the user can make a selection of broadcast program based on program retrieval identification codes (program IDs and monikers), retrieved and extracted by the content keyword. Note column 9, lines 21-34.

In regards to claim 2, the data server and user server are connected via a communications link. Note column 4, lines 60-65.

In regards to claim 3, the content keywords are words such as actors, and titles, which are an element of content forming each broadcast program. Note column 8, lines 1-18 and column 5, lines 54-63.

In regards to claim 4, the data server maintains a plurality of tables that are used to correlate program retrieval identifications to the broadcast programs and trailers. Therefore a program retrieval identifier is associated with each program in a program table in the broadcast program information. Note figures 6 and 7.

In regards to claim 5, a data packet is transmitted from the head end to the user terminal containing the corresponding program titles and their program IDs and monikers that the user uses to queue in a request for an order. Therefore, only the program retrieval identification codes are transmitted to the user. Note column 8, lines 21-34.

In regards to claim 6, the broadcast program information includes electronic program guide information. Note column 5, lines 63-67.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usha Raman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0376. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu: 9am -7pm, and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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*Araten*  
HAI TRAN  
PATENT EXAMINER